



United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2

Hudson River Floodplains Sampling Summary and Update

Community Update

May 2009

CURRENT STATUS:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and General Electric (GE) will be conducting another round of floodplain soil sampling this summer.

Based on the results of last fall's effort, EPA and GE plan to collect additional soil samples from approximately 40 properties at which PCB levels were elevated in areas that are being used by the property owner or the public. EPA and GE will also evaluate about 60 new properties during this effort. The individual results of all sampling are being given to property owners.

DETAILS: In 2002, EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the cleanup of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site. The ROD stated that the floodplains of the Hudson River would be evaluated during the design phase of the dredging project for the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Since that time, EPA and GE have collected hundreds of soil samples from floodplain areas of the Hudson. The latest sampling effort was conducted last fall. The results of that sampling program have been reported to EPA and are now being distributed to private property owners.

RESULTS: A total of 283 properties were sampled by GE as part of the sampling effort (three additional properties were sampled by EPA). The properties were within the 100-year floodplain and included private, residential properties, agricultural properties and public lands.

A total of 2,129 samples were collected by GE from varying depths (144 additional samples were collected from EPA). The samples were then analyzed at an independent lab for PCBs. The results of GE's data indicate the vast majority of samples (1,814 samples or

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—EPA will continue to
update the public on the
status of floodplain
activities in the future.



85 percent) had very low levels of PCBs or no PCBs whatsoever. These samples contained less than 1 part per million (ppm) or were non-detectable for the contaminant.

The breakdown is as follows:

- 1,170, or 55 percent, were non-detectable
- 644 samples, or 30 percent, were less than 1 ppm
- 224 samples, or 11 percent, had PCBs levels ranging from 1-10 ppm
- 91 samples, or 4 percent, had PCB levels greater than 10 ppm

In general, those samples with the highest concentrations were found in low lying areas that are not readily accessible to the public. The highest concentrations were generally found closest to the shoreline, and PCB levels decreased as distance from the shoreline increased.

NEXT STEPS: Based on the results of the sampling to date, EPA and GE plan to collect additional soil samples from approximately 40 properties at which PCB levels were elevated in areas that are clearly being used by property owners or the public. Under EPA supervision, GE will also sample approximately 60 additional properties during the summer of 2009. This sampling will likely result in some short term protective measures implemented on certain frequently used properties adjacent to the river.

PCBs: In the Hudson River floodplains, the best way humans can reduce their risk of exposure to PCBs is by following the New York State Department of Health advisories for consumption of fish from the river, and by taking simple precautions like washing dirt from skin after swimming in the river or recreating on the shore.